

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HEW-06 AID-05 MED-03 EA-10 AGR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2077

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1265

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, IV

SUBJ: HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OPENS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
RIVER BLINDNESS

1. GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIHNLY OPENED ON FEBRUARY 11 A
TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ONCOCEROCOSIS OR RIVER
BLINDNESS, A MALADY AFFLICTING MANY THOUSAND OF PEOPLE IN
VARIOUS PARTS OF AFRICA. THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY
DOCTORS, RESEARCHERS, AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM NINE
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DONOR COUNTRIES-GERMANY, BELGIUM, CANADA, USA, FRANCE,

NETHERLANDS, U.J. DUWAIT AND IRAQ - - IN ADDITON TO REPRESENT-
ATIVES OF JAPAN, NORWAY AND VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL
ORGAINZATIONS WHO WERE PRESENT AS OBSERVERS.ALSO IN ATTENDENCE
WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES OF THE
VOLTA RIVER BASIN (IVORY COAST, DAHOMEY, GHANA, UPPER
VOLTA, MALI, NIGER, AND TOGO), THE AREA ON WHICH THE
CAMPAIGN AGAINST RIVER BLINDNESS IS BEING CONCENTRATED.
SPONSORING THE CAMPAIGN ARE THE WHO, FAO, UNDP AND IBRD.

2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS,HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY UNDERLINED THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE MALADY IN THE IVORY COAST AND OTHER WEST
AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND PONTED OUT THE WIDESPREAD EFFECTS THE
DISEASE HAS IN HINDERING THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. THE
GOIC PRESIDENT WARMLY THANKED DONOR ORGANIZATONS AND COUNTRIES
TWICE MENTIONING AMERICAN ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE PROJECT.

3. PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS DR. M. G. CANDAU, FORMER
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WHO.
DIAMANTI

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